



MINUTES OF THE FORESTRY COMMISSION TRADE UNIONS' DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10TH DECEMBER, ROOM 3, 1ST FLOOR, IN SILVAN HOUSE, EDINBURGH

Present:	Robert Beaney	FCTU Chair
	Edward Shephard	FCTU Secretary
	Allan Mackenzie	PCS
	Lorraine Adams	Prospect
	Roy Laird	GMB
	Malcolm Currie	Prospect FTO
Minute Secretary	Sam Telford	FCTU Office

1. Introduction

Robert welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Tim Gill and Danny Williamson.

3. Minutes of 12th November 2008

The above were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Pay

The group held a confidential discussion on the details of Pay 2008/09. Edward reported that HR were looking to hold a pay negotiations meeting on 18th December and following discussion, Edward said that he would confirm the date with HR.

5. Scottish Climate Change Bill

Edward provided the group with an update on the SCCB proposals. He said that support for the campaign has continued to grow and that the FCTU have continued to try and raise awareness of the potential impact of the proposals on a number of fronts. Edward confirmed that two FCTU teams were formed: one to look into the technical aspects of the proposals and to draft a response to the consultation, and a second to lead on the campaigning and political response. He reported that the team led by Malcolm Crosby have now produced a first draft of the proposed response to the consultation and said that it was the intention to issue the draft in time for members to consider over the Christmas break; with a view to preparing a final draft by mid-January.

Edward felt that the FCTU had been extremely successful in raising the political agenda. He added that support amongst MSPs has continued to build and the Labour MSP Group have written a formal letter of support for the campaign: [Labour's Letter of Support](#). He said that the FCTU are working with supporters to plan a number of events between now and the close of the consultation at the end of January. It was noted that Sarah Boyack MSP has agreed to hold a drop-session for MSPs at the Scottish Parliament early in the New Year.

It was noted that the Minister has highlighted in a press release that his 'triple guarantee' regarding jobs means that our continued concerns constitute 'inaccurate claims' and 'scare-mongering'. Edward said that they have written to the FC seeking written clarification on whether or not the Minister's guarantee constitutes a 'term and condition of service' that is transferable under the TUPE regulations. Edward advised that they will be meeting with the Minister again early in the New Year.

Edward said that a [petition](#) had been launched on the FCTU Website to enable everyone who shares the concerns to register their support.

6. England Reviews

The group discussed the FE Estates Review, which will consider the future long-term sustainable role for the public forest estate. Edward felt that the review was not a cause for concern at the moment, partly as the FC would be in control and that it would not be led by Treasury. Edward said that he would be meeting with Director FC England to discuss how the FCTU could be involved within the process. It was noted that the review would be completed over a 12 month period.

Edward gave an update on the closure of the England national office in Cambridge. He said that he had met with the working group looking at the future of the office and that reported that it would close by May 2010. Edward advised that the Keynsham office will also close and that staff from both offices and the current Bristol office would be merged into a new office in Bristol. He said that the working group were analysing which posts would be affected and dealing with mobility and redundancy issues.

7. FR Staffing Issues

The group held a confidential discussion on staffing issues within Forest Research.

8. Recruitment & Mapping

Edward referred to the action points of the last meeting and said that confirmation of the baseline mapping was required from GMB and Unite representatives.

Action Required: Roy Laird and Tim Gill

9. Grading of Union Posts

Edward referred to his draft letter regarding the grading the FCTU posts and to a previous Departmental Committee discussion on the options for potentially benchmarking the grading of the post holders. He said that he was seeking agreement on the recommendation contained in the letter and that it would be formally submitted to Director HR for consideration if agreed. Following discussion, the group **agreed** to the recommendation contained in the letter and to its submission to HR.